



Slow to Anger

Exodus 34:6-7

“And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, **slow to anger**, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

SERMON SUMMARY

Continuing on in Exodus 34:6-7, we dive into another characteristic of God: Him being slow to anger. God makes anger distant, and compassion near. While God is slow to become angry, his anger, or wrath, is a righteous response to sin and injustice.

God’s wrath is real

- Read Psalms 7:11. The ‘old testament’ God is the same God in the new testament, and the same God today.
- God’ wrath happens when holiness meets sin, justice meets rebellions, perfect good meets pure evil

God’s wrath is an expression of his goodness

- Read Exodus 33:18-19. See in v19 it says, “I will make **all my goodness** pass before you...” This goodness includes everything about God, including his wrath
- A God without wrath is not a good God. We need a God who responds to the injustices and sins of the world.

Example: The story of Ninevah (Read Jonah and Nahum)

- God grants Ninevah a second chance, in the book of Jonah. He displays his compassion and is slow to anger.
- In Nahum, the people of Ninevah have returned to their old, evil ways. And finally, God shows His wrath.

The different displays of the wrath of God

- **Future:** The day of Yahweh, when Jesus brings justice to the world and defeats evil. God will make all things right
- **Present:** When God steps in now and stop evil. Read Acts 5, God struck down Ananais & Sapphira for lying.
- **Active:** When God acts directly to stop evil. God himself struck down Ananais & Sapphira. There are very few moments of God's active wrath in the Bible.
- **Passive:** When God does not act. Going back to the story of Ninevah, God shows wrath to the people by not stepping in while they were taken over by the Babylonians. Read Romans 1:18-28, over and over "...then God gave them over" is repeated. There may be times when God says, "Have it your way" and removes his blessings and protections.

At the cross, Jesus experiences and endures the wrath of God towards sin on your behalf.

- When we respond in the right way, Jesus will bear the wrath for us

Our response:

- Know that God is SLOW to anger
- Know that God is slow to ANGER
- BE slow to anger
- God's wrath should motive us to evangelize

DISCUSSION

Reminders for small group leaders:

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!
 - Set aside a time to pray for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
 - Regularly recap how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
 - The teaching happened on Sunday at church. The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions: 1) What is God saying to me in His Word?, 2) What is He asking me to do in response?
 - Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.
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RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself

- What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?
- What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?
- How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?

QUESTIONS

Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss or make up your own!

Getting to know you:

- Are you slow to anger or quick to anger?
- What comes to mind when you hear about the wrath of God?
- Many people don't like to think about or talk about God's wrath, why is that?

Into the Bible:

- What are some examples of God displaying this wrath in the Bible?
- What are some examples of God holding back his wrath in the Bible?
- How is God's wrath an expression of His goodness?

- Do you think a God without wrath is a good God?
- Read Acts 5
 - How did God show his wrath here and how come he did?
- Read Romans 1:18-28.
 - What stuck out to you in this passage?
 - What kind of wrath is God showing here?
- There are many verses calling us to be slow to anger. Here are some to read together:
 - James 1:19-20, Proverbs 14:29, Proverbs 15:18, Proverbs 16:32, Ephesians 4:31
 - Why should we be slow to anger?
 - How can learn to be slow to anger?
- Knowing about God's wrath should motivate us to evangelize.
 - Is this true for you?
 - What keeps you from evangelizing?
- Missions trips are one way to evangelize. Is there a mission trip that you feel led to attend?
- Is there someone in your life that you need to practice 'slow to anger'?

Pray

- Pray that we will remember God is a compassionate God who is slow to anger, but that his wrath is a justified anger
- Pray that we can be more like Jesus by being slow to anger ourselves
- Pray that we will be motivated to evangelize.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

College:

- Epic large group is on Thursday in Mu13

All church:

- Girls' Night Out is on November 16 at 6:30pm. All women are welcome!
- Baptism Sunday is on November 24th. Email andrea@grantavebc.org if you're interested in getting baptized.
- Thanksgiving Food Boxes are due on November 24th.